

Hirshfield Is Unfit, Buchler Holds in Plea

Ex-Market Official Asks Court to Name Referee to Determine Competency of the Commissioner

Tells of Alleged Insults

Says Hylan Man Called O'Malley "Thief" and Ordered Complainant Out

It may become necessary for Justice O'Malley, of the Supreme Court, to appoint a referee to determine whether David Hirshfield, Commissioner of Accounts, "is a fit and proper person" to conduct an examination of the affairs of the Department of Markets, which fact Hirshfield continually issued official statements attacking all persons who criticized the Department of Public Markets and trying to completely exonerate and whitewash Edwin J. O'Malley.

"This is respectfully submitted as further proof of the incompetency and unfitness of David Hirshfield to act as investigator concerning the Department of Public Markets."

"It is further respectfully requested that should this honorable court have any difficulty in determining this motion on affidavits, that in such event it should order that this matter be sent to an official referee to take proof of the facts and circumstances so as to more fully determine whether the said David Hirshfield is a fit and proper person to conduct the examination of the affairs of the Department of Public Markets."

SAMUEL BUCHLER, Commissioner of Deeds, No. 562.

"MINNIE SCHECHTER, Commissioner of Deeds, No. 562."

La Follette Act Holds Up Great Lakes Liners

Two \$3,000,000 Ships Will Be Built if Law Is Modified, Company Announces

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J. D. Clark, of Midwest Refining Company, Admits Crude Oil Cost Did Not Cause Increase in April

Sliding Scale Conceded

Says Different Rates Are Fixed for Different Sections to 'Get the Business'

From The Tribune's Washington Bureau WASHINGTON, Aug. 10.—Another cut in the prices of gasoline will soon be made as a result of the 20 per cent reduction in the price of crude oil, John D. Clark, vice-president and counsel for the Midwest Refining Company, today told the Senate gasoline investigators, at the same time conceding that recent decreases have not been due to any agreement between the companies concerned.

Mr. Clark also testified that his concern, which is owned by the Standard Oil Company of Indiana, had put up the gasoline prices last spring without the price of crude oil to producers being increased.

Mr. Clark was replying to questions from Senator Harrell, of Oklahoma, who, although not a member of the sub-committee which is conducting investigations under the La Follette resolution, is taking a keen interest in the proceedings.

"The raise in price was made last spring because the market stood for it, was it not?" asked Senator Harrell.

"Yes," replied Mr. Clark.

The Midwest did not raise the price of crude oil last spring when the price of gasoline was increased, Mr. Clark said specifically in reply to Senator Harrell.

Convert Half of Crude Oil

Mr. Clark opened the eyes of the sub-committee when he testified that by what is called an "extra cracking" process, under great heat, his company and the Standard of Indiana convert about 50 per cent of a barrel of crude oil into gasoline. This is a far higher percentage than heretofore testified to before the committee. About 25 per cent is the figure given in other testimony. The fact that such a high percentage of crude oil becomes gasoline makes a great difference when it comes to reckoning profits by refiners of crude oil.

"We are the greatest makers of gasoline in the world," commented Mr. Clark, referring after the meeting to the "extra cracking" process.

The Midwest Refining Company is not losing money in the gasoline business, according to the witness. He said the company made 22 per cent the first six months of 1922. This, he said, would not keep up with the lower prices of gasoline.

Senator Harrell, pointing out that the Midwest Refining Company was owned by the Standard Oil Company of Indiana and that the two concerns were largely identical, thought the profits of the Midwest Company added to the profits of the Standard of Indiana "makes a pretty handsome profit."

Mr. Clark said the expense of drilling wells was taken into account in considering the expense of the business. It was further developed that his company and others follow the practice of storing up crude oil, when it can be had at desirable prices, to be converted into gasoline and other products when the market is opportune.

Prices Fixed to Get Business

Mr. Clark admitted that statements made by the Federal Trade Commission in a recent report were true, that his company sometimes charges more for

gasoline in a nearby zone than it does at more distant points.

"We make a price that will get the business," said the witness.

Senator Harrell further disclosed by questions to Mr. Clark that the increases in gasoline last spring were 3 to 4 cents, while recent decreases are about 2 cents, so that prices to consumers are still higher than they were in April.

Experts of the Bureau of Mines and the Geological Survey presented tabulations to the sub-committee, and Fayette B. Dow, of the National Petroleum Association, submitted exhaustive figures on freight rates, showing that the railroads exacted a heavy toll from the refiners. His data showed that on every dollar's worth of fuel oil shipped from Tulsa to New York the railroads got 65.1 cents and the refiners 34.9 cents. On gasoline the railroads got 26.2 cents and the refiners 73.8 cents. Mr. Dow said these figures had been laid before the Interstate Commerce Commission.

The hearing went over until next week, when refiners and operators will be called.

Boy Dupe of Gair Forger Is Locked Up for Hearing

Signature on \$30,000 Check Was Clever Tracing; Fugitive in Youth's Neighborhood

James Joseph, of 40 Willow Place, Brooklyn, the thirteen-year-old boy whom a smooth-tongued stranger utilized as a messenger in an unsuccessful attempt to get \$30,000 in Liberty bonds from Clarke Brothers, brokers at 154 Nassau Street, on a forged certified check Wednesday afternoon, was held yesterday in Children's Court for a hearing next Thursday.

Detectives found that the signature of Robert Gair, paper box manufacturer, which had been forged on the \$30,000 check which the Title Guaranty and Trust Company certified, was a tracing and practically identical with the original signature.

James told them that the stranger was remarkable for his handsome and pleasant face. He was about five feet seven inches tall, the boy said, and had dark brown hair. According to persons living on Willow place, the man was seen there yesterday afternoon.

Blasts Fire Barge; Nine Men Rescued As She Goes Down

Nine members of the crew of the barge Pocahontas narrowly escaped death yesterday afternoon, when the lighter caught fire and sank in the Erie Basin, following several violent explosions. Captain Ernest Anderson and his men were taken off in a rowboat by Charles Smith, of 85 Court Street, Brooklyn, who was standing on Pier A when he saw the fire. Smith, realizing the men virtually were imprisoned, jumped into the skiff and went to their rescue.

The crew had removed about 300 tons of nitrate of soda, in bags, from the United States Shipping Board boat West Jaffray, which was lying off the foot of Van Buren Street. Captain Anderson was attracted by smoke, and attempted to fight the fire with the aid of his crew, but was forced to give up when the explosions occurred. The barge was soon aflame and began to sink rapidly, disappearing under the water just after Smith had rescued the men on board.

Three alarms were turned in, as it was feared the fire might spread to other vessels near by, particularly the West Jaffray, an oil burner, which had about 1,000 drums of gasoline in her hold. The rapid sinking of the Pocahontas, however, prevented the flames from spreading, and when the fireboat John Purroy Mitchell responded with the fire apparatus there was nothing for the firemen to do. The West Jaffray was only slightly scorched by the fire.

The origin of the blaze had not been determined, although it is believed spontaneous combustion was the cause. No estimate of damage has been made. The Pocahontas was of 850 tons burden and was owned by the Stoomvaart Maatschappij, 17 Battery Place. She was under charter by the Lee

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Downtown Office: 16 Wall Street

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The unique Columbia System provides that the owner of the building must make to us a monthly payment which not only covers all interest charges but also pays off a portion of the mortgage itself. Therefore each month the security back of your bond becomes greater.

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COLUMBIA MORTGAGE COMPANY

Columbia Mortgage Company Building 4 East 43rd Street New York

Telephone Vanderbilt 0340

Results

even before we got started

July 17, 1922

The New York Tribune, Tribune Building, New York City.

Attention of the new department for supplying houses and apartments.

Gentlemen:

Your idea of printing each Sunday a list of new houses and apartments for rent now and on October 1st, is simply splendid. I am so pleased over it—in view of the seeming impossibility of finding what one wants without some such plan—that I am taking the liberty of writing you for any "advance" apartment that may lay to your attention.

We want 7 or 8 rooms, light and cherry. Anywhere on the west side from 10th to 75th Street. Elevator not essential—though of course a great asset. To be occupied by four adults—ladies.

Rental from \$150 per month to about \$175. Not above that. Needed from October 1st next.

I trust I am not breaking rules, or doing anything "irregular" in thus applying to you.

Yours gratefully.

Kindly place my name on file —

or two apartments—one 6 to 7 rooms; the other about 7 or 8 rooms. Both would be equally acceptable if attached to the same building, but this might be more expensive.

Published Every Sunday During the Renting Season

The New Tribune

Apartment House Guide

had not appeared when the above letter was received, which indicates how Tribune readers anticipated its great value to prospective tenants.

Get a copy of next Sunday's Tribune and go apartment hunting without leaving your easy chair.

NEW YORK TRIBUNE

Friday, August 11, 1922

Lighterage Company, of 44 Whitehall Street, The West Jaffray arrived Wednesday night from Chile, under the command of Captain Robert Finley, with 8,000 tons of nitrate of soda, and the work of unloading had been going on since yesterday morning.

Cobb Hooks 40-Pound Musky

WATERTOWN, N. Y., Aug. 10.—Irvin S. Cobb, humorist and author, to-day has the distinction of making the biggest catch of the season among St.

Lawrence River fishermen. Mr. Cobb arrived at Alexandria Bay yesterday, with Robert H. Davis, editor of "Munsey's Magazine," and two hours later returned from a fishing expedition, exhibiting a forty-pound muskallunge.

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